

REMARKS

This Reply is in response to the Office Action mailed on November 30, 2004 in which Claims 5, 14 and 15 were objected to, and in which Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 16-24 were rejected. With this response, each of the independent claims are amended based upon the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance placing claims in condition for allowance. In particular, Claim 14 is cancelled and Claims 1-3, 5, 12, 15 and 20-23 are amended. In addition, Claims 25-31 are added. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-13 and 15-31 are requested.

I. Examiner Interview Summary.

On February 28, 2005, a telephonic interview was held between Examiner Tso and Applicant's attorney, Todd A. Rathe.

The statement of reasons for allowability set forth in the Office Action mailed on November 30, 2004, was discussed. It was agreed upon that the amendments to independent Claims 1, 11 and 20 are based upon such statement would place Claims 1, 11 and 20 in condition for allowance. Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Tso for the opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments to Claims 1, 11 and 20.

II.. Rejection of Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 20 and 24 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Based Upon Kayatt and Van Sickler.

Rejection of Claims 2-4, 7, 11-13 and 21-23 Based Upon Kayatt in View of Van Sickler.

Page 2 of the Office Action rejected Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kayatt, U.S. Patent No. 3,435,286 in view of Van Sickler, U.S. Patent No. 4,679,126. Page 3 of the Office Action rejected Claims 2-4, 7, 11-13 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kayatt, U.S. Patent No. 3,435,286 in view of Van Sickler, U.S. Patent No. 4,679,126. As noted above, each of independent Claims 1, 11 and 20 is amended based upon the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter on page 4. In particular, the statement of reasons for allowable subject matter on page 4 acknowledges that the prior art fails to show or suggest a decorative

line string comprising a string of light bulb sockets electrically interconnected by a cord and terminated by a connector, and a plurality of decorative light bulbs comprising a plain light bulb covered by a flexible outer coating in the shape of a candle flame, wherein the coating includes a scent.

In response, Claim 1 is amended to further recite that the flexible outer coating that is in the shape of a candle includes a scent. Independent Claim 11 is amended to incorporate the limitations of objected to Claim 14 which recites that the flexible outer coating includes a scent disbursed therein. Independent Claim 20 is amended to further recite the step of applying a scent to the polymeric gel of at least one of the bulbs. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 11 and 20, as amended, are believed to be patentably distinct over the prior art of record in that the prior art of record fails to disclose a decorative light string having a string of light bulbs covered by a flexible outer coating in the shape of a candle and including a scent as acknowledged in the statement of reasons for allowance on page 4 of the Office Action.

II. Added Claims.

With this Reply, Claims 25-31 are added. Claims 25 27 depend from Claim 1 and recite additional features which further distinguish such claims over the prior art of record. Claims 28-31 depend from Claim 20 and recite additional features further distinguishing such claims from the prior art of record.

III. Conclusion.

After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 1-13 and 15-31 are now pending in this application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date Feb. 28, 2005 By Todd A. Rathe

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